## **Typhoon News**

**1ST BATTALION 2ND MARINES** 

JUNE 2010 ISSUE

### CO greetings to the families, friends, and supporters of 1/2

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they should have all called home.

As we push into the summer months here, it is getting significantly warmer, most days are hitting the 100s now and will continue to climb to about 110 or 120. During this period we will limit some of our operations during the heat of the day to help ensure the Marines are not exposed to this scorching heat and the

Typhoon Family and Friends,

continues

operations to rid the Area of

Operations of insurgents in

Now Zad and Musa Qa'leh

districts, Helmand province,

brothers, husbands, friends are

doing a phenomenal job and

quite frankly are performing

expectations in some of the

toughest conditions here in

Afghanistan. We have made

a small sacrifice. Each loss

impacts this battalion as a

to try and make living

sacrifices, none of them small

as no fallen Marine or Sailor is

whole but we will continue to

do what is right and what we

came here to do. We continue

conditions better for all of the

Marines across the Area of

Operation, some things are

painfully slow and there are

shortages in many items. We

still have not been able to get

positions but all Marines have

access to satellite phones and

reliable internet out to all

Afghanistan. Your sons,

above and beyond all

s I write this May is

coming to a close and the battalion

majority of the locals also stay inside during the midday hours.

In a few short weeks we will be at our half way point for this deployment. There are many emotions running through your Marines and Sailors right now and there will be many more as they get home. There are still many things we have to answer but our plan upon return will be to take a 72 hour holiday period for the entire battalion. Immediately following this we must do a five day decompression period where we conduct "Warrior transition" classes to go over some of the stress and other emotions that we have built up over the deployment. We will also conduct a memorial service for all of our fallen brothers to give the opportunity for the families to attend and also pay our final respects. Once complete the battalion will go into a 21 day port and starboard block leave period. This means that half of the battalion will be on leave at any given time while the other half is back working. We will not be able to identify who goes on the first block leave period and who goes on the second until we get closer to coming home. The reason we do this is to have requisite leadership in the battalion area upon our return to continue to manage any issues that arise and also to ensure we continue to take care of and visit our wounded brothers while

maintaining the ability to react



to anything that may arise. I know there will be many questions on this and as I said, as we get closer we will be able to answer most of them. The tentative time for the battalion return is still the beginning of October and as we get closer we will get better dates out. Remember that exact dates will be passed through the RBE and FRO due to Operational Security Issues. I thank you for your continued support for the Marines and Sailors of this battalion.

God Bless and Semper Fidelis, M. A. Manning LtCol USMC Commanding



### Message from Battalion Sgt Major

ell here we are rolling into June and about at the half way point of the deployment. The Marines are doing great work! They are fighting the enemy and taking ground with two new towns being cleared. The heat is slowly moving in on us and will continue, but the Marines and especially our Corpsmen are taking care of one another. The Navy Corpsmen of the Battalion have done nothing INFORMATION less than awesome work while they have been here. In my 23 years I have not seen a better group of Sailors providing care and getting into the fight right alongside of their brothers. We have had 18 of the corpsmen get qualified for their Fleet Marine Force certification which is awesome and shows the dedication they have put forth. It is amazing to see the Marines and Sailors thrive in the conditions that they are in and they wouldn't want it any other way. The niceties are starting to work their way to us and hopefully we will have internet and phones set up at the company positions shortly so the Marines and Sailors can call home more often. Until then, the PX trucks have been coming through twice a month for us, brining morale phones and internet.

You can be proud of your loved ones. They are doing a tremendous job and completing their mission. Since my last letter, we have again, unfortunately, had members of the family pay the ultimate sacrifice while conducting operations in Helmand province. LCpl Thomas Rivers Jr from Company "A", LCpl Richard Penny from Weapons Company, LCpl Joshua Davis from Company "C" and Sgt Donald Lamar of the Sniper Platoon; our prayers go out to their families. There have been other Marines and Sailors wounded, and are heading home. SSgt Coulby will be visiting them at the hospitals and keeping them in the fold of the 1/2 family. The FRO and all the Family Readiness Volunteers have been doing a great job keeping the information going both from us and to us and I want to thank them for their work.

Congratulations to the newest members of the 1/2 family:

RESTRICTED INFORMATION

Also Congratulations to Marines that won the Combat Meritorious Promotion board:

RESTRICTED



"Semper Fi" and God Bless

SgtMaj Jeffrey Cullen

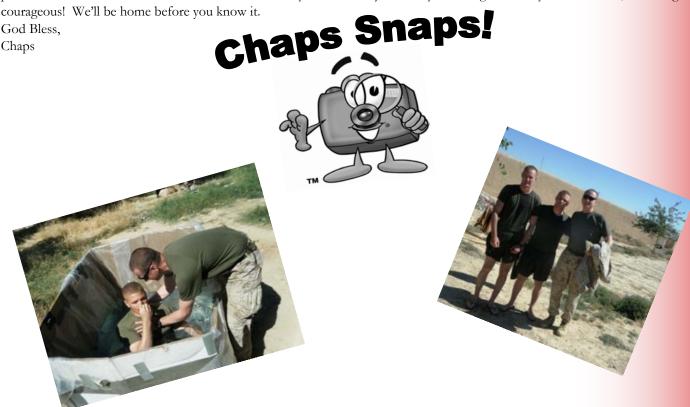
### Chaplain's Corner

s I sit to write this article, it's hard to believe that this deployment has reached its half-way mark. In many ways, it seems like only yesterday we were planning for the days ahead, and searching for a new call sign for the battalion. LCpl Legendre's winning submission was "Typhoon." He researched the history of our regiment and explained how the 1 / 2 would continue the legacy passed down to us by being like a typhoon- an unstoppable force. I am proud to say your Marine or Sailor is living up to the description. Over the past 3 plus months, we have seen this battalion accomplish some truly amazing gains. They have fulfilled their orders, in the face of a cowardly enemy, with a spirit of honor, courage, and commitment. They have been and will continue to be an unstoppable force! I know this because I have the privilege of seeing and hearing some of the things you don't. So, let me give you a glimpse into one of my visits to the different positions. I hope it might help answer your biggest questions:

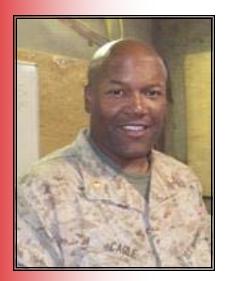
IT Chris Adams, USN
Battalion Chaplain

First, yes, the men are okay. They live in some pretty austere conditions but their morale is up and they are performing their duties well. They seem to be motivated by a genuine concern for

one another and are closer now than ever. They are truly becoming a band of brothers. Second, yes, your mail is getting to him. The letters and care packages you send help him through the demands of "the daily grind." I have been asked 1000 times, "Chaps, any word on when we're getting mail?" You may never understand how much a touch from home means to him. Keep those letters coming! Third, I see an increase in the level of sincerity in the eyes of many. I am seeing the type of genuineness that comes from being in an environment that strips away the "fluff" of life and causes one to focus on the things that really matter. Things like family, friends, and faith. They talk to me about you constantly, and let me tell you, they have some big plans when they return home! Fourth, they have mourned the loss of their brothers and are more resolved than ever to honor their legacy by finishing the mission. In light of recent events, many are rediscovering the importance of faith in their lives. As I conduct our field services, I watch them take to heart the words shared. Many are reprioritizing their lives and putting things in their proper place. For example, below are a couple of pictures from a recent baptism service held at Patrol Base Talibjan. GySgt Reed and LCpl Moore publicly declared their decision to become Christians by asking to be baptized in front of 20 of their brothers in Brayo Company on 28 May. All were encouraged and blessed! Finally, what can you do? Pray for them daily, assure them that you will be there for them when they need you, and accept the same challenge I have given them. In Joshua 1:9, God tells a young man heading into battle to be "strong and courageous." Why? Because He knew Joshua had some tough days ahead, but He also promised to be with him wherever he went and in every situation they face. My encouragement to you is the same, be strong and courageous! We'll be home before you know it.



### Message from the Battalion XO



Maj Kevin Cagle **Battalion XO** 

e will soon arrive at our half way point on this deployment and have had great success with our mission. Your friends, sons, grandsons, nephews, husbands and acquaintances are all doing their jobs in the manner they are suppose to. I hope you are hearing the good that have come with our operating in our area. Good news like: Marines/Sailor, Afghan Soldiers and Afghan Police finding 300 and 400lbs of opium before it reaches the international illegal drug market, people moving back to their homes after being displace for over a year, roads that lead in and around Helmand Province are no longer avoided due to fear of robbery and extortion, children are more interested in schools and education due to work and effort our Thank you and Semper Fi, Marines/Sailors are putting into the schools, these are the things that your

Marines are doing. These are things that are not even thought of in the United States but here they are huge they are things that make the difference in whether a child becomes a Taliban fighter or supporter of the Afghan Government, they are the things that make the difference in supporters of terrorist organization who allow terrorist to train in Afghanistan or farmers and families trying to make a living.

We have a long way to go so I do not want anyone to get over anxious and beginning stressing over our return. I need you to encourage our Marines/Sailors so that they continue to do the marvelous job that they are doing.

Maj Kevin Cagle

### Welcome to the 1/2 Family







# RESTRICTED INFORMATION

### Headquarters and Service Company - Lonewolf Corner

To the family and friends of the Marines of Headquarters and Service Company,



ur battalion has been busy for the past month and our company has stayed busy supporting its operations. The people of Afghanistan are truly benefiting from our presence. Both indirectly through the support we provide to the rifle companies and directly through the interactions of the Marines of the company.

On Apr 30, the Taliban detonated an IED within the Musa Qa'leh bazaar and wounded 10 civilians, several of them children. Within minutes, the casualties flooded into our base and were taken to the Battalion Aid Station. The Medical Officer and Corpsmen of the battalion worked diligently on eight casualties simultaneously and were able to treat the casualties and sustain them until a medivac helicopter arrived. Every Marine available came to help with the patients and to move them to the flight line when the helicopters arrived. Due to our Corpsman's efforts all eight survived with no permanent disabilities and several of them have checked in throughout the month of May to thank them for their help.

Motor Transportation section continues to push logistics and supplies beyond what anybody could have expected of them! The Marines of Motor-T have been working longer hours, across more days without rest than any other unit in our company or battalion. I am truly amazed by how hard and diligently they work and they deserve the greatest of accolades for their efforts and continued support. IEDs are the main threat for any vehicular unit in Afghanistan and H&S Motor-T is no exception. New MATV vehicles and mine rollers that the battalion was expecting to be issued were initially a point of question when we departed Camp Lejeune. After a couple of months, the vehicles have truly proven there worth, saving countless numbers of our Marines in IED strikes. Know that in our opinion, the Marine Corps has provided us with an excellent equipment for our fight.

The company has been conducting patrols throughout the AO and familiarizing itself with the Afghan population. Several victories have been won for the Musa Qa'leh citizens, one of them the ribbon cutting ceremony for the establishment of a new power generator in the town center. Before this generator came online, the locals had no reliable power source and lived without electricity. Another was the creation of a wadi crossing to allow the locals to cross an 800 foot wadi that otherwise became uncrossable through the rainy season. This wadi crossing provides stability and prevents Musa Qa'leh from being separated in half during the rainy season.

Our company has unfortunately suffered our first fallen angel; one of our Marines who gave the ultimate sacrifice for his nation. Sergeant Lamar fell while serving in support of combat operations in the Helmand Province. Please pray for him and his wife, Stephanie and daughter, Madison. Know that we keep him and his family in our prayers and we, his brothers always, will never forget him.

Our company has had several Marines wounded in action and would like to offer our sympathies and condolences to those Marines and their families. We are always your brothers and will be reunited with you soon.

As always, our prayers are with our brothers who have been wounded or killed in action throughout the battalion and those Marine's families and loved ones.

Semper Fidelis,

Lt Joshua Hartly H&S Company 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines

### Alpha Company - Sledgehammer

### Dear Alpha Company Family and Friends,

y now you've celebrated our halfway mark or you're about too and hopefully had the pleasure of meeting one another at the "Alpha Over the Hump Party" in June! Likewise, your Marines and Sailors of Alpha Company are elated to have reached this milestone and are growing increasingly excited about our homecoming day. In the meantime, Alpha Company will continue to work hard and get the job done that we were sent here to accomplish! As with previous months, our morale is high and we continually see the support flooding in through mail calls. As many of you know by now, my wife of 16+ years is Carmen and we have three wonderful children. We were able to join the 1/2 family in December of 2009. Although every deployment brings about its difficult moments for the families and service members alike, I can truly say that my family and I are blessed to be a part of the 1/2 Family. If at any time you need anything, please never hesitate to contact Carmen. Her email is RESTRICTED INFORMATION. As for your Marines and Sailors, they are doing great things in Afghanistan and working extremely hard to remain focused and ready at all times. Our mission accomplishment partly hinges on family readiness, and therefore, it is important to remember that drawing support from other families is a key component to feeling supported during this deployment; in return you can give your Marine or Sailor the support they need. It's the halfway mark that families celebrate with much

enthusiasm, but remember to keep busy and attend unit functions. This will help you stay informed and assists in feeling connected with your service member. As for us, we feel connected and informed with each piece of mail we receive from our loved ones! We send our heartfelt thanks and admiration from abroad and hope that each and every one of you truly understands the important role you have in this deployment. Having completed half of this deployment, I commend each and every one of you now for having realized the important role you have in our success and our focus. Thank you for taking the time to send "pieces of home" in those cardboard boxes and for continually helping us feel a part of all that happens back home. And truly, thanks for always answering the phone with a smile and telling us, "everything is great," even when the kids are sick, the car broke down, the taxes were due and the appliances have stopped working. We know you are working hard to reassure us that our families are doing well. We know it's hard on you and we appreciate all you do for us. Alpha will continue to work hard and make you proud. Remember to check with the FRO for all upcoming unit activities. Also, we ask that you continue to pray for the 1/2 Fallen Heroes' families, as well as for the recovery of our wounded 1/2 Warriors.

God Bless and Semper Fi,

Capt Jeremy Wilkinson



### Bravo Company - Mustang Corner

### **Dear Bravo Company Family and Friends:**

'd like to begin this newsletter by stating that the Marines and Sailors of the Company, as well as all of our enablers, have been performing superbly. The last two months have been busy but significant achievements have been made in our Area of Operations (AO). Last month, the battalion conducted "Operation Rising Tide," where we secured key areas and opened road systems to neighboring cities. This was a significant achievement that not only opened our own supply lines, but also allowed the civilian populace to travel the routes without Taliban influence. As the locals continue to enjoy freedom of movement, government influence and economic growth has also increased.

The Marines and Sailors here are filling a number of roles. In addition to combating the enemy, they are also interacting with the local populace to better their quality of life. We are digging wells, clearing irrigation canals, supplying schools with much needed supplies, and identifying larger infrastructure projects. Each of the platoons is also partnered with an Afghan National Army unit, and in some cases an Afghan National Police unit. When the Marines are not combating the enemy or assisting the locals, they are training our Afghan counterparts in all aspects of their duties. It is a demanding schedule, but the Marines and Sailors are performing well.

I would like to congratulate RESTRICTED INFORMATON

We cannot forget out Navy brethren. Congratulations to RESTRICTED

To those of you unfamiliar with the FMF pin, Sailors must conduct extensive studies on various Marine Corps topics before taking a test

various Marine Corps topics before taking a test and passing an oral board. The FMF pin is a significant achievement and we are proud of all of them.

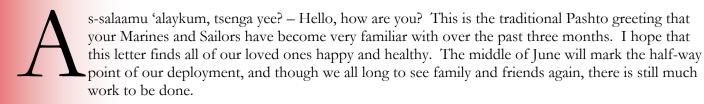
In closing, it is a privilege to serve the Marines and Sailors of Company B. They are hard working, motivated and inspiring. We all look forward to being together soon. Until then, know that you are all in our hearts and in our prayers.

Semper Fidelis,

Capt Tanner

### Charlie Company - Hangman

Family and Friends of Charlie Company,



The Marines and Sailors of Charlie Company continue to acquit themselves with bravery, professionalism, dignity and compassion on a daily basis. Even as the temperature rises and the searing heat of the Afghan summer sets in, the men of this company work tirelessly and with a joyful heart to improve the security and well-being of the Afghan people.

During the month of April, the company successfully expanded its area of influence into what had been an enemy sanctuary. As a result, nearly 3000 residents of a small village were liberated from Taliban control. The company established a new patrol base and has made great gains in securing the population.

The month of May found the company fully involved in the counterinsurgency fight. Your Marines and Sailors have conducted medical screenings with Afghan civilians, handed out soccer balls and beanie babies, distributed school supplies, repaired power lines, handed out humanitarian supplies, overseen the refurbishment of schools and drank gallons of sweet chi tea. Because of the tireless efforts of your Marines and Sailors, the Afghan people living within the Charlie Company AO are already beginning to live better, more secure lives.

During the month of June we will continue to capitalize on the gains we have already made. Roads will be improved, more schools will be built, electricity will reach more homes, irrigation canals will be improved and the seeds of local democratic government will be planted. Though the enemy will continue to challenge us at every turn, I have no doubt that Charlie Company will prevail.

Words cannot express the honor and privilege it is for me to lead a company full of such fine young men. The valor, brotherly love, dedication to service and compassion I see displayed by every Marine and Sailor in this company truly humbles me. The men of Charlie Company are the finest young men our country has to offer. I am proud to serve in the company of such men.

In closing, I want to truly thank all of the family and friends of Charlie Company for the support you give to your Marine or Sailor every day. We could not do our duty without it. Let us never forget the words of the great poet John Milton, "They also serve who stand and wait".

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Nathan B. Chandler Hangman 6

### Weapons Company - Vandal Corner

Dear Families of Weapons Company,

e have just passed the two month mark and pushing forward. Our Marines have been doing great things out here and continue to do great things every day. Currently Weapons Company has been split between nine positions. Some of these positions have fewer amenities than other positions. If your Marine is unable to call, some of the positions do not have phones. Please write your Marine letters. Our Marines are receiving their mail, sometimes sporadically, but the motivation and morale level is off the chart after mail call.

We conducted a memorial service for LCpl Richard Penny on May 21, 2010. LCpl Penny's entire platoon was in attendance. It was a good opportunity for all of us to come together and mourn the loss of our fellow Marine. We will all miss LCpl Penny's good nature and spirit. Please keep the family of LCpl Penny in your prayers.

I have been out to most of the positions and seen our Marines. We recently were able to bring a majority of the company to Musa Qal'ah. It was good to see them all together. Some of the Marines have not seen each other for the last two months.

After the observing the actions of our Marines for the pasted two months, you would truly be impressed and proud by their actions in the conduct of their duties. Please take the time to write your Marine a letter or send him a care package.

Semper Fidelis, Captain L. V. Pion III

### Congratulations to the following Marines on their promotion!

### Weapons: To LCpl:

PFC Blackburn, K.L.

PFC Frederick, W.J.

PFC Fankboner, J.C.

PFC Hall, J.W.

PFC Henry, J.D.

PFC Mills, E.T.

PFC Nunally, K.M.

PFC Quinn, F.G.

PFC Ronevich, L.A.

PFC Shake, R.P.

PFC Smith, N.L.

PFC Strong, M.W.

PFC Winegar, R.W.

PFC Marshall, M.

PFC Vigliottti, M.V.

PFC Vincent, M.D.

PFC Vivian, C.F.

PFC West, G.D.



### Alpha Company:

Sgt Brent A. Larimer Meritorious Cpl Michael L. Sawicki

### Charlie:

Cpl Michael R. Moyer

### H&S

Cpl Justin P. Keleher

### **Bravo Company**

Corporal Ryan D. Farris - Meritorious

Corporal Jewell

Corporal Woods

Corporal Garciaperales

Corporal Fisher

Lance Corporal Dixon

Lance Corporal Johnson

Lance Corporal Medina

Lance Corporal Morton

Lance Corporal Haley

Lance Corporal Parham

Lance Corporal Hilton

Lance Corporal Patten

Lance Corporal Yarborough

Lance Corporal Arquilla

Lance Corporal Richardson

Lance Corporal Church

Lance Corporal Idler

Lance Corporal Masarone

Lance Corporal Quinn

### Family Readiness Officer

### June Greetings, 1/2 Family!

s I write this article, I am pleased to note that we are well into this deployment! I hope that the time is passing by relatively quickly for you all. I know that you are all counting days until our battalion returns, and many of you have begun asking questions about Homecoming. Currently, we do not have dates for return, but STARBOARD LEAVE as Colonel Smith noted in his recent brief, our deployment timeframe is 210 days, give or take 15 on either side, to allow for flight arrangements. If you count days, this should give you a good idea of a return. When our return "windows" are established, I will publish this information to families on the MCT (Mass Communication Tool). If you are receiving this newsletter via email, then you are on the MCT. Additionally, the battalion hotline will be updated with information regarding timeframes and location for families to gather for homecoming. Especially as we get into September, I encourage you to regularly check the hotline (800-230-8762, press 1, then 1 again).

Please continue to check the following for news / information Family Readiness Officer on our battalion:

http://www.dvidshub.net/ http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Regimental-Combat-Team-2/293321267795?ref=search

As we continue to plan for future events, two immediately come to mind, including Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and a post-deployment Memorial Service. At this point, a "true Birthday Ball" may likely not materialize, due to such a tight timeframe surrounding post deployment leave blocks. Additionally, please note that a memorial service for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan will be scheduled in October, shortly after the return. As we solidify dates, we will push those to you.

As mentioned above briefly, post deployment leave will be given in two blocks, dates for which are listed below. Each company will be working to determine who goes on which block and Marines and Sailors will be notified as to which timeframe they will have. Although the blocks will be offered at two different times, all service members will receive the same amount of time off. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BELOW LEAVE BLOCKS ARE NOT CONCRETE **DATES!** IF ARRIVAL BACK TO THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE LATER THAN ESTIMATED, BLOCK LEAVE DATES WILL ALSO SHIFT! If you choose to make flight reservations at this time, you do this based on very limited information and we recommend that you purchase a refundable ticket.

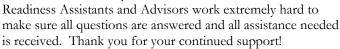
### PORT LEAVE BLOCK:

Begins October 12 at 0800 Ends November 1 at 1600

### **BLOCK:**

Begins November 2 at 0800 Ends November 22 at 1600

Please continue to contact me directly with questions o assistance! The Family



Semper Fi!

1st Battalion, 2d Marines



### **WOUNDED IN ACTION**

# RESTRICTED INFORMATION

### **Mailing Addresses for Noted Hospitals**

### **BAMC**

Marine's Name/Rank Brooke Army Medical Center 3851 Roger Brooke Drive Bldg 3600 Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6200

### Bethesda

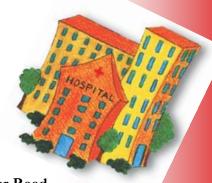
Marine's Name/Rank Marine Patient Affairs Team 8901 Wisconsin Ave. Bldg 10, Room 1014 Bethesda, MD 20889

### **Portsmouth**

Marine's Name/Rank Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth Marine Corps Liaison Office Attn: Melissa Marshall 620 John Paul Jones Circle Portsmouth, VA 23708

### Marines on Convalescence Leave

Family Readiness Officer 1/2 8th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division PSC Box 20101 Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0101



Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Hospital

Patient Name Patient Affairs Team Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Hospital 1201 Broad Rock Blvd. Richmond, VA 23249

### Walter Reed

Patient Rank, Name C/O Walter Reed Army Medical Center Ward 57, Room 41 / 1 6900 Georgia Avenue Washington, DC 20012

(Please review the following dates / locations, as some events may have changed. For base events, please see wy

### **June**

### **Armed Services Blood Drive** 23 June 2010 0900-1300 Bldg 217

### MCFTB Funtastic III 26 June 2010 1300-1700 Bldg 40

### July

### Camp Lejeune 4th of July 4 July 2010 Gates open at 1700 WPT Field

### 10 July 2010 \*Adults Only

## 16 July 2010

### **Battalion Family Pool** 24 July 2010 1930-2130 TT Pool

### 31 July 2010 0900-1200 Marine Corps Family Services Bldg 40

### August

### Ladies Night at HEROZ 14 August 2010 \*Adults Only

Sign Making Party 11 September 2010 Time TBD **Battalion Classroom** 

## Noteworthy Phone Numbers

Family Readiness Officer	(910) 451-3288 (office) (910) 382-2579 (cell)	Military OneSource	(800) 433-6868
		Tri-care	(800) 931-9501
SSgt Coulby RBE SNCOIC	(910) 546-0073 (cell)	Family Member Employment	(910) 450-1676 (TT)
RDE SINCOIC		Assistance Program	(910) 450-1070 (11)
2nd Mar Div Duty Chaplain	(910) 451-2414		(Midway Pk)
1/2 Duty (24hrs)	(910) 451-1519	MCCS Counseling Center	(910) 451-2864
8th Marine Reg Duty	(910) 451-4841	Exceptional Family Member	(910) 451-4394
American Red Cross	(910) 451-2173	Program	
American Red Gross	(877) 2 <mark>72-733</mark> 7	FOCUS Project	(910) 450-0178
Naval Hospital	(910) 450-4300	Child, Youth, and Teen Program	ns
		(Resource and Referral)	(910) 449-9552
Navy/Marine Corps Relief	(910) 451-5584	Post I and	(010) 451 1002
Brewster CDC	(910) 450-8467	Base Legal	(910) 451-1903
210,10001 02 0	(>20) 100 0101	Base Information	(910) 451-1113

Commander's Hotline (800) 230-8762 **Press 1, 1** 

http://www.marines.mil

http://iimefpublic.usmc.mil/public/iimefpublic.nsf/unitsites/rct2